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14. "Remarks on the Conjugation in the Wallonian Dialect."

On account of the lateness of the hour, it was thought best to omit the reading of this communication, but that there should be published in the Proceedings the usual abstract, which runs as follows :

These remarks bear on the modern Wallonian dialect, especially that phase of it belonging to Malmédy. They are intended to show the important rôle analogy has played in the development of the conjugation, particularly in the past tenses ; as, for example, in the Imperfect Indicative and Subjunctive and in the Perfect Indicative. This strong influence of analogy is felt in the following three grammar categories :

1. The six personal terminations are dropped altogether, only the two numbers (singular and plural) being distinguished. Thus, the singular of the Imperfect Indicative terminates in *-év* (= Latin *-aba-*), the plural in *-i* (= Latin *-ebatis*); the singular of the Perfect ends in *-á* (= *-avit*), the plural = the plural of the Imperfect ; the singular of the Imperfect Subjunctive ends in *-áxe* (= *-asse-*), the plural in *-axi* (= *-asse + -ebatis*).

2. The three (A- E- and I-) conjugations are reduced to one, the first supplanting the others. The above-named terminations *-év*, *-i*, *-á*, *-áxe* and *-axi* are used, with the exception of the two auxiliary verbs *aveur*, "avoir," and *esse*, "être," for all three conjugations, and, as their corresponding Latin forms between brackets show, the first conjugation has been taken as the model in all these forms except in the plural of the Imperfect Indicative.

3. The two kinds of inflexion, the so-called "strong" and "weak" inflexion, are reduced to one, the weak one of course overwhelming the other. Thus, all the strong perfect forms of French or Latin, with the exception of the two auxiliary verbs, end in *-á* in the singular (in *-i* in the plural) just like the weak forms and nearly all the strong past participles end in *-ou* (= Latin *-utum*).

These three kinds of simplification of the Latin conjugation are not unknown to the French language, nor to the other Romance languages and dialects, but in no one of them has the uniformity been carried so far as in our dialect. If, in this case, our "patois" plays the part of a radical or progressive element in comparison with Modern French, it is the more curious to see it, in other parts of the conjugation, manifesting a tendency more conservative than is noted in the literary language of France. There are especially two cases to be noticed :

# 1      *The Modern Language Association of America.*

1. That the Infinitive and the Past Participle of the *a*- conjugation have each two endings in conformity with Old French usage, namely,

-er	and -é (fem. -ée)	= Old French -er, -e (ée)	} =
and -i	-i ( -ée)	= " -ier, -ié (-te)	
Modern French -er, -é (-ée).			

2. That some older forms have been retained in the singular of the present (Indicative and Subjunctive); as, from the Infinitive *parler*: *ju parole* = Old French *ze parol*, "je parle;" from *lèver*, *crèver*: *ju live*, *crive* = Old French *je lief*, *crief*, "je lève, crève," etc.

On motion of Professor Hewett, a vote of thanks to the authorities of Boston University was passed by the Convention for the use of their Assembly Room, and the Society adjourned to meet in Baltimore during the Christmas holidays of 1886.